

Amendments to the Claims: Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

1.-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the telephone and/or video conference data processing device and the data-processing interface device are arranged in a computer.

21. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 20, wherein the computer is a server.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the second data transmission protocol is an open, standardized protocol.

24. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the second data transmission protocol is an H.323 or H.225/H.245-based protocol or an SIP-based protocol.

25. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the first data transmission protocol is a proprietary or generic protocol.

26. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the first data transmission protocol is a PCM- or TDM-based protocol.

27. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the first and/or the second data transmission protocol is a TCP/IP-based data transmission protocol.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 39, wherein one or more of the clients are connected to an Intranet data network.

30. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 29, wherein one or more of the clients are arranged outside the Intranet data network.

31. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 30, wherein one or more of the clients are connected to a further Intranet data network.

32. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 39, wherein the telephone and/or video conference data processing device is connected to the Intranet data network.

33. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 39, wherein a further telephone and/or video conference data processing device supporting the first data transmission protocol is provided which can be used instead of the telephone and/or video conference data processing device.

34. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 33, wherein the further telephone and/or video conference data processing device is connected to the Intranet data network, or wherein the further telephone and/or video conference data processing device is arranged outside the Intranet data network.

35. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 39, wherein an additional telephone and/or video conference data processing device supporting the second data transmission protocol is provided, which can be used instead of the telephone and/or video conference data processing device.

36. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with Claim 35, wherein the additional telephone and/or video conference data processing device is connected to the Intranet data network, or wherein the additional telephone and/or video conference data processing device is arranged outside the Intranet data network is connected to a further Intranet data network.

37-38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A data communications system, comprising:

a plurality of clients connected by at least one network to a private branch exchange (PBX), wherein a first of the clients communicates with the PBX using a first data transmission protocol, and a second of the clients communicates with the PBX using a second data transmission protocol;

a plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices in a plurality of gateway modules in the PBX supporting the first data transmission protocol and not supporting the second data transmission protocol;

a resource control device in the PBX that selects one of the telephone and/or data processing devices to execute a teleconference based on a telecommunications load and a gateway resource availability;

a single gatekeeper module in the PBX comprising an interface device supporting both the first and second data transmission protocols, wherein the gatekeeper module converts transmission data between the first and second protocols, and forwards data converted to the first protocol to the selected telephone and/or video conference data processing device, which executes the teleconference among the first and second clients and at least a third one of the clients;

wherein clients using the first data transmission protocol and clients using the second data transmission protocol can jointly hold a telephone and/or video conference with each other via the selected the telephone and/or data processing device; and

wherein all conversions between the first and second protocols are performed in the single gatekeeper for the plurality of gateway modules.

40. (previously presented) The data communications system in accordance with claim 39, wherein the resource control device in the PBX selects from among the telephone and/or data processing devices in the PBX and from among further telephone and/or data processing devices in an external network that is directly or indirectly connected to the PBX to execute the teleconference based on a telecommunications load and a resource availability.

41. (currently amended) A computer comprising:

a plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices supporting a first data transmission protocol and not supporting a second data transmission protocol;

an interface in a gatekeeper module supporting both the first, and also a the second data transmission protocol, the gatekeeper module converting received data from the second to the first data transmission protocol and forwarding converted data to one of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices, wherein clients using the first data transmission protocol and clients using the second data transmission protocol can simultaneously use said one of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices; and

a resource control device which in cases in which a request cannot be processed by said one of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices due to data traffic loading thereof, causes another of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices to take over the request;

wherein all conversions between the first and second protocols are performed in the gatekeeper for the plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices.

42. (currently amended) A data communications method for use in a data communications system comprising a number of clients; a computer comprising a plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices supporting a first data transmission protocol, an interface device supporting both the first and also a second data transmission protocol; and a resource-control device; the method comprising:

selecting one of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices by the resource control module to execute a teleconference based on a communications load;

receiving data in the first data transmission protocol by the selected telephone and/or video conference data processing device;

converting data received in the second data transmission protocol to the first data transmission protocol by the interface device;

forwarding the converted data to the selected telephone and/or video conference data processing device, wherein the teleconference can be used by clients using the first data transmission protocol and by clients using the second data transmission protocol; and

executing at least two different teleconferences simultaneously in two respective telephone and/or video conference data processing devices;

wherein all conversions between the first and second protocols are performed in the interface device for the plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices.

43. (currently amended) The data communications method in accordance with claim 42, wherein the resource control module selects from among the telephone and/or data processing devices in the computer and from among further telephone and/or data processing devices in an external network that is directly or indirectly connected to the computer to execute the teleconference based on a telecommunications load and a resource availability;